

## **AND GOD SAYS . . .**

**Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church**

“It used to be called illegitimacy: Now it is called normal. After steadily rising for five decades, the share of children born to unmarried women has crossed a threshold: More than half of births to U.S. women younger than 30 occur outside of marriage. . . The fastest growth in the past two decades has occurred among white women in their 20's who have some college education but no four-year degree. . .” [This] is both a symbol of the transforming family and a hint of coming generational change. . .” (Taken from Star Tribune, Feb. 18, 2012, by Jason Deparle and Sabrina Ta Vernise • New York Times.)

What a powerful testimony to the effectiveness of the media and the educational system and the ineffectiveness of the church. In the media, it is hard to find a movie or sitcom where any attraction between a man and a women means that they not go to bed together. In our schools, our children are being taught that we are just animals (evolution) and when the hormones flow, we cannot control our sexual urges, so wear a condom. Is it any wonder that we now read these kinds of statistics?

At the same time, the church is losing its effectiveness by becoming bedfellows with the world. The church is so concerned with loving others, not offending people, being tolerant, being “seeker sensitive, being relevant, etc., that it no longer teaches and preaches the message of God. God says, “Do not commit adultery” (Deuteronomy 5:18). He also says, “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and the sexually immoral” (Hebrews 13:4). Can God be clearer than that? The implications are clear. To keep the marriage bed pure mandates that there is no defilement by pre-marital or extra-marital sex.

Finally, God says he will judge those who violate His word. Maybe this is why the above article reports that “the shift is affecting children’s lives. . . [for they] face elevated risks of poverty, failing in school or suffering from emotional and behavioral problems . . .

Maybe it is time the church, and all Christians, to repent and take God’s word seriously. For these statistics could only happen if “Christians” are participating in this worldly behavior.

**For comments, concerns or questions call 608-488-7733**